

Correspondence

EFFECT OF SUXAMETHONIUM ON INTRAGASTRIC PRESSURE

The Editor, *Anæsthesia*

Sir,

Dr R. B. Roe¹ has published records of intragastric pressures that strengthen the case against using the upright position in conjunction with suxamethonium. Recently I had my hand on the abdomen of a heavy, middle aged man while the anæsthetist was giving this relaxant. As the drug struck home, the abdominal wall was suddenly blown out and at the same time became as rigid as a board. The abdomen was momentarily distended and as tight as a drum, suggesting that the suxamethonium had caused a simultaneous and generalised contraction of both the diaphragm and the abdominal wall. If Dr Roe pursued his interesting observations farther, it would not be long, I think, before he recorded pressures much higher than those so far encountered.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. Bourne

Reference

¹ ROE, R. B. (1962). *Anæsthesia*, 17, 179.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL

The Editor, *Anæsthesia*

Sir,

The research library of the Institute of Experimental Medicine and Surgery of the University of Montreal has suffered extensive losses owing to destruction by fire.

In attempting to rebuild our library, we should like to enlist the assistance of the readers of *Anæsthesia* and ask them to send us all available reprints of their work, especially those dealing with ENDOCRINOLOGY and STRESS.

At the same time we wish to point out that our permanent mailing list was also destroyed, hence we shall be able to send reprints of our own publications only to those of your readers who write for them.

We would be most grateful if you could find some appropriate space in your Journal for the early publication of this request.

Yours sincerely,
Hans Selye

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